



# 2021-22 Annual Report





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## FRIENDS OF THE IDAHO PANHANDLE AVALANCHE CENTER

The "Friends" Mission Statement is... **To support the Idaho Panhandle National Forest Avalanche Center in providing avalanche forecasting and education to the public.**

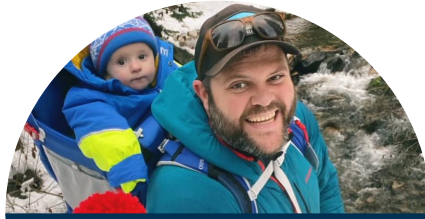
The Friends of the Idaho Panhandle Avalanche Center was formed in 2011 by a group of backcountry enthusiasts that had a **goal to increase avalanche awareness and advisories for the public.** Through collaborating with the Forest Service and the Idaho Panhandle Avalanche Center they worked on setting important goals for funding, resources, and public outreach that the Friends and the Avalanche Center could work on achieving together.

The Friends of **IPAC is a non-profit 501c3**, organized to support and contribute to the educational and public advisory activities provided for the public by the Idaho Panhandle Avalanche Center. These activities include **avalanche education** for the public, operation of **weather stations** and organization of a team of **snow observers** to supplement observations made by the IPAC forecasters.

The Friends of IPAC rely on **volunteers and donations to operate** and assist the avalanche center to **fund personnel and purchase gear.** Federal funding to support Avalanche Centers nationwide is limited. Donations expand the work of avalanche awareness and enable IPAC to continue to **provide weekly avalanche advisories and expand their education curriculum.**



# FIPAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS



GABE WHITE  
PRESIDENT



MIKE BREDE  
SECRETARY



TOM EDDY  
VICE PRESIDENT



MILES RINNE  
TREASURER



SEAN MIRUS  
DIRECTOR



LARRY BANKS  
DIRECTOR



GARY QUINN  
DIRECTOR

# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

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A welcome lack of significant accidents and big boost in program development defined the 2021-2022 Idaho Panhandle Avalanche Center (IPAC) season.

Several developments on both the Forest Service and nonprofit Friends of the Idaho Panhandle Avalanche Center (FIPAC) sides continued incremental growth for the program. Friends of IPAC hired Jon Totten as education coordinator and Danica Gilbert as membership and development coordinator, filling these two paid positions for the first time. Jeff Thompson returned in a forecaster and educator role, and many local instructors helped with avalanche classes, rounding out our friends group paid staff. Friends of IPAC also added a few new and valuable board members.

Motorized and non-motorized use continues to grow across the three IPAC forecast zones. Motivated and skilled snowmobilers, snow bikers, skiers, and snowboarders push deep into our remote mountains. While escaping significant accidents this season, we observed countless bold tracks from all user types. We think that backcountry users in north Idaho and northwest Montana are trending towards greater collective avalanche awareness and ability to choose appropriate terrain for given snowpack conditions.

We know that a few more mistakes or a little less luck could result in many more accidents. The Idaho Panhandle Avalanche Center is working to continue growth of avalanche information and education offerings for the greater Idaho panhandle area, helping our increasing users stack the odds in their favor.



**RYAN MATZ**

Avalanche Specialist Director  
Idaho Panhandle Avalanche Center  
Forest Service

THE IDAHO PANHANDLE NATIONAL FORESTS FILLED A FULL-TIME IPAC DIRECTOR DETAIL FOR THE WINTER.

THOUGH TEMPORARY, THIS MARKS THE FIRST SEASON FOR IPAC WITH A FULL-TIME FOREST SERVICE DIRECTOR.

RYAN MATZ, FROM THE MT. HOOD NATIONAL FOREST AND FORMERLY OF THE MT. WASHINGTON AVALANCHE CENTER, FILLED THIS ROLE.

WE MADE PROGRESS TOWARDS A PERMANENT, FULL-TIME VERSION OF THIS POSITION AND ARE OPTIMISTIC THAT THE IDAHO PANHANDLE NATIONAL FOREST WILL SUPPORT IPAC BY FILLING THIS CRUCIAL DIRECTOR POSITION SOON.



# IPAC FORECASTERS



RYAN MATZ  
DIRECTOR



JEFF THOMPSON  
FORECASTER



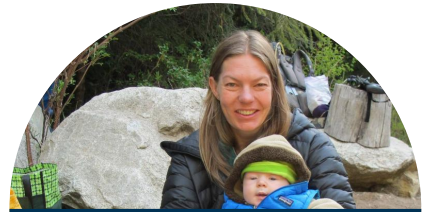
BEN BERNALL  
FORECASTER



KEVIN DAVIS  
FORECASTER



ERIC MORGAN  
FORECASTER



LIZ FIGGINS  
FORECASTER



MIKEY CHURCH  
FORECASTER

# SEASON OVERVIEW

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After a slow start, winter roared in with a big storm December 10th. We issued a special avalanche bulletin for the isolated but rapid increase in avalanche danger and watched terrain start to fill in.

Regular avalanche forecasts began on December 17th. Another powerful storm prompted the first High avalanche danger and avalanche warning of the season on Christmas Eve.

January quickly checked our December optimism for an old-fashioned snowy and cold winter. A rain event around January 12th produced a prominent crust. A little snow accumulation above the crust paired with many clear, cold nights to allow surface hoar and near surface facet development for the remainder of the month.

A storm finally buried this well-developed crop of surface hoar February 1st. Relatively small accumulations above this buried weak layer produced few and small avalanches. We waited for a larger storm and avalanche cycle, but instead received spring like weather that culminated in a Valentine's Day gift of a robust melt/freeze crust. Our Kootenai forecast zone, especially the relatively colder Purcell mountains, escaped this warming and kept persistent weak layer on the avalanche problem list until March.

March did indeed come in like a lion. Heavy snowfall accumulated quickly and slowly turned to rain everywhere, even the high peaks of the Cabinet Mountains. We issued successive avalanche warnings and expected widespread natural wet avalanches. While a few large wet slab and wet loose avalanches were observed, this cycle reminded us that the snowpack adjusts well to slow change, even if that slow change is a significant and prolonged warming event. Yet another crust formed when all this wetness refroze.

When snow returned, facets and generally poor bonding to the crust kept us on our toes through most of March. Warming late in the month brought many wet loose avalanches and stabilized the persistent weak layer on that early March crust.

A few more storms and an overall cold April rounded out the forecast season. We issued the final avalanche forecasts of the season on April 9th.



# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



The Friends group made progress in event fundraising and class revenue for the season. Next seasons goal will be to continue to focus on increasing local sponsorship within our community and reach for additional grant funding. With the additional support the Friends of the Idaho Panhandle Avalanche Center will expand programing for motorized users, support the Forest Service in funding a full time director position and continue to add forecast days.

YOUR DONATION	FORECASTING	EDUCATION	AWARENESS
	Salaries	Instructors	Website
	Equipment	Equipment	Events
	Travel	Travel	Communication
	Training	Curriculum Develop	

<b>\$6,000</b> Sponsorship Revenue	<b>\$5,000</b> Grant Revenue
<b>\$20,016</b> Event Revenue	<b>\$31,897</b> Class Revenue
<b>\$6,494</b> Donations	<b>\$4,120</b> Membership Revenue

FEDERAL FUNDING TO SUPPORT AVALANCHE CENTERS NATIONWIDE IS LIMITED.

DONATIONS ASSIST THE AVALANCHE CENTER TO FUND PERSONNEL, PURCHASE GEAR, EXPAND THE WORK OF AVALANCHE AWARENESS, ENABLE IPAC TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE WEEKLY AVALANCHE ADVISORIES AND DEVELOP THEIR EDUCATION CURRICULUM.

# EDUCATION & OUTREACH

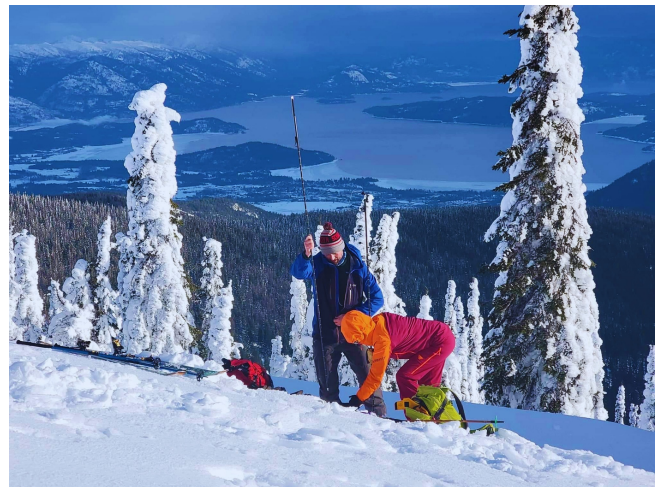
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Friends of IPAC increased avalanche education offerings to reach over 300 students in the 2021-2022 season.

16 total courses included avalanche awareness, rescue fundamentals, Level 1, and Level 1 refreshers.

Public demand for Level 1 courses continued, with 127 students completing a Level 1 with Friends of IPAC this season.

Progress towards insurance for motorized avalanche courses will hopefully allow the addition of motorized-specific Level 1 courses in the 2022-2023 season.



<b>16</b> Classes	<b>300+</b> Students
<b>12</b> Instructors	<b>7</b> Volunteers





# FORECASTS

**104**

# Forecasts

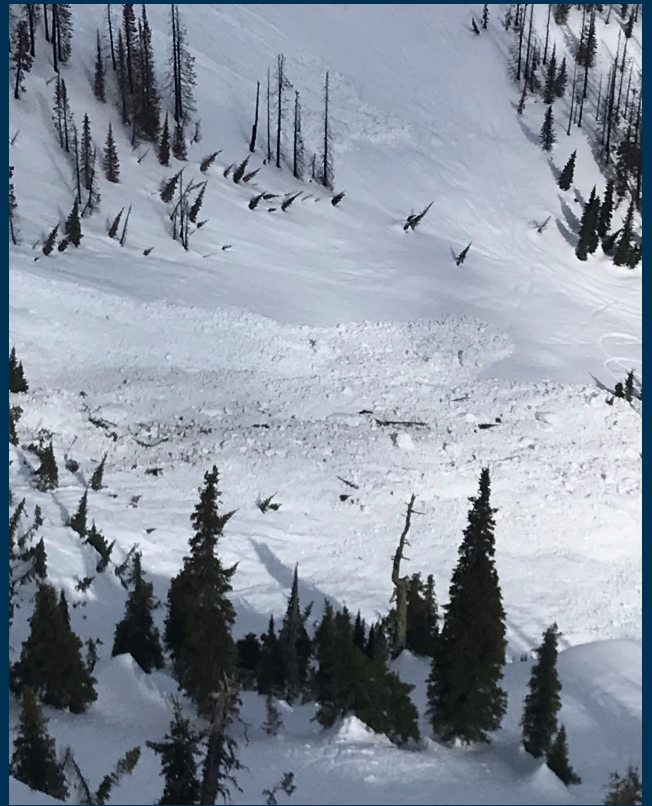
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Notices

IPAC issued regular avalanche forecasts each Tuesday and Friday through the forecast season with general avalanche information statements issued the day following each forecast.

A total of 35 forecast cycles across three forecast zones resulted in 104 total avalanche forecasts and 109 total general avalanche information statements.

We issued a combined total of 11 avalanche watch, warning, and special avalanche bulletin products.



**35**

forecast cycles

**3**

forecast zones

Many part-time forecasters and our full-time director make up the IPAC avalanche forecast team.

Full-time Idaho Panhandle, Kootenai, and Lolo National Forest employees Ben Bernall, Mikey Church, Kevin Davis, Liz Figgins, Grant Golden, and Eric Morgan all contributed by producing and publishing avalanche forecasts this season.

Friends of IPAC rounded out our forecast team by continuing to fund Jeff Thompson as a forecaster.

This team of excellent individuals makes regular IPAC avalanche forecasts possible as we work towards additional full-time forecast team staff.

# THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

## EXTREME SPONSORS

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## HIGH SPONSORS

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## CONSIDERABLE SPONSORS

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## MODERATE SPONSORS

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## MOUNTAIN PARTNERS

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# THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Gabe White  
Mike Brede  
Gary Quinn  
Sean Mirus

Tom eddy  
Miles Rinne  
Larry Banks

## 221 ACTIVE MEMBERS

### GOLD

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Paul Ainsworth  
Thomas Barnett  
Meeka Bond  
Landon Crecelius  
Hailey Decoto  
Erin Good  
Joshua Messinger  
Sean Murphy

Patrick Green  
Brad Hart  
Brad Huston  
Natalie Koncz  
Kyle Lucas  
Sarah Lucas  
Dean Margell  
Susan McBurney

Zack Nees  
Northern Lights Inc  
Leah Opitz  
Radley Peterson  
Marshall Powell  
Tony Rizzuto  
Emma Saarel  
Robin Shaw

Logan Slone  
Mark Stambaugh  
Randy Stemp

### SILVER

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Bill Anders  
Jeff Barton  
Luke Bumpus  
Ian Burge  
Jill Carter  
Mathew Conger  
Kevin Glynn  
Brett Gombasy

Andrew Nicklawsky  
Courtney Nova  
Trisha Scott  
Matt Weber  
Sarah Wells  
Kathryn West  
Rory Whitney  
Eric Worden

### BRONZE

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Sierra Zuberbuhler  
Max Zuberbuhler  
Jim Zuberbuhler  
Peter Youngblood  
Jenny Wilson  
Rory Whitney  
Donald Alsbury  
Scott Albrethsen  
John Grollmus  
Christy Grant

Duffy Walker  
Kyle Volkman  
Josh Volkman  
Luigi Verzura  
Cole VanHersett  
Jim Vandersloot  
Derek Toms  
Peter Tobin  
Peter Tobin  
Danielle Tholl

Nick Sweeney  
Jade Stevens  
Georgia Stephens  
Randolph Stemp  
Randolph Stemp  
Malia Steffen  
Emma Stayduhar  
Andrew Starnino  
Keri St John  
Ian St John

Monika Sowinska  
David Sittser  
Michael Shannon  
John Schulte  
Marisa Schneider  
Laura Schmidt  
Andrew Scheuneman  
Steve Sanchez  
Emma Saarel

## BRONZE

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Daniel Graham  
Norman Goltra  
John Gilmer  
Carson Fugal  
John Frutiger  
Jackson Frickle  
Eric Frickle  
Alexandra Fraik  
Rick Evans  
Kelton Enich  
Heidi Elvestrom  
Alexander Ellingsen  
Jack Dylan Armstrong  
Will Ducey  
Melissa Drinville  
Olivia Drake  
Ron Doran  
Ron Doran  
Nick Doran  
Katlin Doran  
Cheryl Doran  
Rylee Dockins  
Karen Dig Chrismer  
Jared Diehl  
Natalee DeMers  
Eric DeMers  
Christopher Daniels  
Luke Cronin  
Molly Collins  
Justin Cline  
Justin Cline  
Emily Cheesman  
Molly Carney  
Barry Campbell  
Cori Callahan  
Mikal Burley  
Jacob Bradley

Peter Rinne  
Addison Rieker  
Brandon Redman  
Brandon Redman  
Devin Raynor  
Jake Radi  
Dorothy Pyrdek  
Tyler Pollan  
Justin Piper  
Corrie Piper  
Chris Peterson  
Skye Pauly  
Mike Patterson  
Steve Partridge  
Calen Papke  
Dylan Opp  
Sheryn Olson  
Rose Olson  
Cale Nittinger  
Scott Nelson  
Lydia Nelson  
Jason Nees  
Jason Nees  
Sean Murphy  
Melanie Moss  
Jerrett Moss  
Hailey Morris  
Erik Morris  
Sean Mirus  
Arne Michalson  
Kaitlyn Mcdonald  
Keith McCullough  
Susan McBurney  
Amy Mazur  
Andrew Maslanka  
Autumn Whitley  
Mitchell Whetzel

Taylor Marlow  
Aiden Manansala  
Erik Makinson  
Lauren M. Sanders  
Kyla M. Berendzen  
Amy Lynn Shaver  
Jon Lee  
Cameron Lee  
Anastacia Lee  
John Layton  
Kaylee LaDuca  
Nicole Kuntz  
Scott Kuhta  
Tristina Krakenberg  
Matt Krabacher  
Charles Kessler  
Melissa Kennedy  
Jared Kennedy  
Chandler Kees  
Matt Karaus  
Nathan Kanning  
Blayne Kanning  
Eric Jensen  
Jason Jakober  
Daniel Ingram  
Wes Hubbard  
Heather Hofstetter  
Brian Hilland  
Jack Hersett  
Wyatt Heaney  
John Hayes  
Zion Hartley  
Aaron Hart  
Clay Harris  
Benjamin Harlow  
Susan Hansen-Barber  
Jaymes Hansen

Daniel Bradley  
Daniel Bradley  
Meeka Bond  
Mike Bohm  
Douglas Blake Doyle  
Tammy Bishopp  
Kate Bishopp  
Greg Birge  
Andrew Berrey  
Zach Bermingham  
Tristina bermingham  
Charlene Belles  
Zachary Beegle  
Elias Baer  
Russel Arnold  
Nick Appl  
Izzy Appl  
Hilary Anderson  
Courtney Altringer  
Josett Weinert  
Erin Weber  
Owen Ainsworth  
Hayden Ainsworth  
Emma Hall  
Adam Hall  
Blake Gustafson  
Jonah Grubb



### Let's Talk

Membership and Development

[info@idahopanhandleavalanche.org](mailto:info@idahopanhandleavalanche.org)